

Message

From: Hall, Kristen [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=62DC51D079824B3FBD90A9B708749FC5-KHALL]
Sent: 1/15/2020 3:22:31 PM
To: Russell Swan (Swan.Russell@epa.gov) [Swan.Russell@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Media Inquiry: E&E News and NBC News -PES benzene emissions

Kris Hall
Chief, Air Section
Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Division
Air, RCRA and Toxics Branch
US EPA Region 3
1650 Arch Street – 3ED21
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-814-2168
Hall.Kristen@epa.gov

From: Stoltzfus, Robert <Stoltzfus.Robert@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 3:12 PM
To: Mastro, Donna <Mastro.Donna@epa.gov>; Seneca, Roy <Seneca.Roy@epa.gov>; Hall, Kristen <hall.kristen@epa.gov>; Augustine, Bruce <augustine.bruce@epa.gov>; Melvin, Karen <Melvin.Karen@epa.gov>
Cc: Kim, Lena <Kim.Lena@epa.gov>; Smith, William (Region 3) <smith.william@epa.gov>; White, Terri-A <White.Terri-A@epa.gov>; Landis, Jeffrey <Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Fernandez, Cristina <Fernandez.Cristina@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Media Inquiry: E&E News and NBC News -PES benzene emissions

I generally agree with Donna, and here are my thoughts on all of the questions.

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Bob

J. Robert Stoltzfus / US EPA, Region III / Office of Regional Counsel / Mail Code 3RC50 / 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 / 215-814-2695 / stoltzfus.robert@epa.gov

From: Mastro, Donna <Mastro.Donna@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 2:54 PM

To: Seneca, Roy <Seneca.Roy@epa.gov>; Hall, Kristen <hall.kristen@epa.gov>; Augustine, Bruce

<augustine.bruce@epa.gov>; Melvin, Karen <Melvin.Karen@epa.gov>

Cc: Kim, Lena <Kim.Lena@epa.gov>; Stoltzfus, Robert <Stoltzfus.Robert@epa.gov>; Smith, William (Region 3) <smith.william@epa.gov>; White, Terri-A <White.Terri-A@epa.gov>; Landis, Jeffrey <Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov>;

Fernandez, Cristina <Fernandez.Cristina@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Media Inquiry: E&E News and NBC News -PES benzene emissions

Can we answer ONE and TWO with the standard response about NOT commenting on ongoing matters? As to NUMBER 3, I believe the benzene emissions data is available to the public. Bruce or Kris from ECAD should be able to provide that .

Donna L. Mastro | Deputy Regional Counsel for Enforcement| US EPA Region III ORC | (215) 814-2777 | fax (215) 814-2603

From: Seneca, Roy <Seneca.Roy@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 2:31 PM

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<Melvin.Karen@epa.gov>

Cc: Mastro, Donna <Mastro.Donna@epa.gov>; Kim, Lena <Kim.Lena@epa.gov>; Stoltzfus, Robert <Stoltzfus.Robert@epa.gov>; Smith, William (Region 3) <smith.william@epa.gov>; White, Terri-A <White.Terri-A@epa.gov>; Landis, Jeffrey <Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Fernandez, Cristina <Fernandez.Cristina@epa.gov>

Subject: Media Inquiry: E&E News and NBC News -PES benzene emissions

Importance: High

Kris, Bruce and Bob – Here is another inquiry from the same reporter with some additional questions. Here are the questions we need to answer. Reporter is asking for a response today. Thanks for any help you can provide:

Hi, I'm working on a story with NBC News about public health dangers posed by the consistently high benzene emissions from the PES refinery that's set to run Wednesday morning.

EPA data show that the refinery exceeded the benzene emissions limit for all but 12 weeks from the end of January 2018 to late September 2019 -- an 86-week span. For the most recent quarter, the refinery's average annual benzene emissions were also 49 micrograms per cubic meter. That was higher than any other refinery that reported data to EPA and five times above the agency's benzene "action level." Former EPA officials say the action level isn't sufficiently protective of public health and that EPA should have done more to ensure the refinery stays well below that emission threshold.

Question 1: What is EPA doing to reduce the PES emissions, which actually increased after the explosive fire?

Question 2: Why hasn't EPA done more to address the problem and protect nearby residents -- many of whom are people of color living below the poverty line -- from the carcinogenic gases?

Question 3: Why hasn't EPA, whose regional headquarters are only three miles from the refinery, informed the public about PES's significant benzene problems?

From: Corbin Hiar <chiar@eenews.net>

Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 7:29 PM

To: R3Press <R3Press@epa.gov>

Cc: Lisa Riordan Seville <lriordanseville@gmail.com>

Subject: Request for comment on PES benzene emissions from E&E and NBC

Hi, I'm working on a story with NBC News about public health dangers posed by the consistently high benzene emissions from the PES refinery that's set to run Wednesday morning.

EPA data show that the refinery exceeded the benzene emissions limit for all but 12 weeks from the end of January 2018 to late September 2019 -- an 86-week span. For the most recent quarter, the refinery's average annual benzene emissions were also 49 micrograms per cubic meter. That was higher than any other refinery that reported data to EPA and five times above the agency's benzene "action level." Former EPA officials say the action level isn't sufficiently protective of public health and that EPA should have done more to ensure the refinery stays well below that emission threshold.

What is EPA doing to reduce the PES emissions, which actually increased after the explosive fire? Why hasn't EPA done more to address the problem and protect nearby residents -- many of whom are people of color living below the poverty line -- from the carcinogenic gases? Why hasn't EPA, whose regional headquarters are only three miles from the refinery, informed the public about PES's significant benzene problems?

Please get back to us with any comments by the end of Tuesday, Jan. 14.

Thanks,
Corbin

Corbin Hiar

E&E News Reporter

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